

November 22, 1958

Dear George:

I have so much to communicate to you that this has paralyzed my writing, and I hardly know where to begin. And Time does Fly!

Thank you for your trouble in procuring and sending the cards: they were a lovely selection, although none was quite what I had in mind; nevertheless we are happy to use them for our regular Christmas card distribution -- you might even see one of them again yourself. I had in mind an actual postcard to be mailed without cover as an acknowledgment to so many people who have written in, but with whom we have no appreciable personal contact otherwise. I thought some of these might appreciate having a memento that might have some imaginative connection with the Nobel celebrations-- perhaps even a good picture postcard of the Palais des Concerts where the ceremony is held. We might need about 400 of these, but it is not so essential that we rush to mail them from Stockholm. Please don't exert yourself on this point, but if there is time to exchange another set, we would be happy to see them. We will verify the inscription together with our choice.

Has the Swedish PostBureau ever issued a stamp commemorating the prizes or Nobel-- if so, would a useful number of these be on sale?

This is perhaps the most trivial item, but you can imagine I have been somewhat drowned in correspondence.

To turn to somewhat more pressing practicalities: I have taken for granted, I hope not "Impertinently" that you would be willing to be my local representative for accepting invitations: since I hardly know what is expected of me it is difficult for me to make definite arrangements myself, except in principle, and I would beg you to do this for me. I am quite agreeable to any affairs that you would feel yourself I should attend in Stockholm, and you may for example receive a request from the Ambassador for Israel for luncheon. However, I do not think it would be feasible for me to accept any invitations for lectures apart from the Nobel ceremonies themselves, and apart from the open possibility of an informal visit to Uppsala (Bök) probably cannot make any visits, on this occasion, outside of Stockholm. I have accepted an invitation from Prof. Caspersson for Tuesday night. I have been obliged to send my regrets to the Medical Student Assoc. of Stockholm for the Lucia festival (I would have liked that, but will have left by Saturday), to Muntzing, to Bök (for a formal lecture), and to Vahlquist (for Mon Dec 15 at Uppsala). If you have any ~~staxak~~ doubts in any specific case, or if you would be under any embarrassment in having to refuse an engagement on my behalf do not of course hesitate to refer the matter to me. Perhaps the 'worst' is already over. However, I have let it be known that you could be my CentralBureau, and I hope this does not give you any irksome tasks. For example, I have been written independently by Friberg, Stohle and Liljestrand concerning my arrangements, and rather than try to reconcile the details with all three of them at once, I have referred them to you as my 'personal representative.'

The great difficulty of the situation is that we are moving to Stanford in mid-January, less than 4 weeks after my return from Stockholm. There is a multitude of things to take care of, and as a result I have not really seen the lab for several weeks, and too many other people's plans hinge on these arrangements for me merely to abandon them. This has three drastic effects: (1) I will have to curtail my visit to the briefest decent interval; (2) Esther has decided that she probably will not be able to attend on this occasion, as she has hardly the time and energy as it is to cope with the problems of moving home and lab; but this is subject to last minute reversal (3) I am asking leave to take advantage of the wording of the statutes (S.9) and present the prize lecture 'within six months' and not during the Nobel week-- I could hardly do justice to the occasion in present circumstances. As you may know, we had already had a fixed intention to revisit Stockholm in the course of our visit to Cavalli (Pavia) next spring, and if it were possible to wait as long as early June, I would have a convenient and relaxed occasion to write the ms. (we were planning to reach Pavia by April 1). I ~~understand~~ understand your academic season ends May 31, and if it were quite essential I probably could meet the obligation before then; if I had a free choice, the end of June, just prior to returning to Stanford would be preferable. If we can schedule our visit to our own convenience we would look forward to a more leisurely visit that would allow us to make up for the very kind invitations we have had to decline at this time. If this solution is acceptable in principle I can of course discuss the details of execution with the Nobel Committee at Stockholm. I would think there would actually be some advantage in not having the whole series of Nobel lectures concentrated in a single week, and ~~there~~ it is particularly fitting that my own should succeed Beadle + Tatum's by an interval for assimilation.

Enclosed is a tentative itinerary; we had originally planned to take 2 days to visit Cavalli, to recuperate and to make other arrangements for our visit in April; but if Esther does not join me, I will return home directly from Copenhagen, non-stop.

Do you think it would be feasible for me to arrive incognito on Sunday so as to leave sometime to collect my bearings and to have some private time with you and Eva? Naturally I would prefer to prolong this phase of my visit as long as possible but I imagine it would be indiscreet to defer my formal arrival beyond Tuesday morning and perhaps beyond sometime on Monday. I would leave this very much to your discretion, keeping in mind that there will be a number of private affairs that I would like to attend to before being overwhelmed by the matters connected with the ceremonial. I have written to the various Nobel representatives simply that I would definitely arrive for the ceremony and that I am communicating with you with regard to the details of my trip.

Among these details is the question of formal clothing. I think that it would be best for me to pick this up in Stockholm from hat to shoes and I will send you measurements as soon as possible. One of my concerns is that you would know very much better than I what the requirements for the occasion would be. Dr. Enders indicated that he found a white tie necessary for all formal occasions and a business suit satisfactory for the rest. I can also bring a tuxedo if you feel that would be desirable as well; please notify.

I hardly know what can have happened to my letter in response to your inquiry for a visiting fellow. I had originally ^{mentioned} Dr. M. L. Morse, for whom I am also enclosing some biographical information. You will find papers under his authorship among the reprints sent you and he is a very capable person. At the moment however I wonder if a more appropriate candidate, if you can interest him in the proposition as is entirely possible, might not be Dr. Norton Zinder at the Rockefeller Institute. The press has mentioned his name prominently (and appropriately) as a codiscoverer of phage-mediated transduction in Salmonella. You will want to give him careful consideration. The chief problem for both these men is, as might be expected, having to move their families, but an adequate stipend can lighten that burden too. Is this a Nobel Institute proposition-- I seem to recall noticing something in the statutes for these that would make this an appropriate guess. If so, it would be entirely appropriate.

P.s. (To EVA) In case Esther does find that she can come after all, she would much appreciate your advice on the minimum requirements for clothing for the various occasions -- what the probable occasions are and what dress would be fitting. She has taken for granted the need for one full length formal (inc). long white gloves; Mrs. Enders had implied that this would not begin to suffice; can you advise further?

As you can see neither of us has had any useful experience with such formidable problems.

P.S. The news service here has just sent me a set of photographs, which ~~XXXXXX~~ I am delighted to send you for a personal remembrance. They can of course be copied if needed for any business purpose, or more copies ordered (direct from U of Wis Photogr Lab., please) by referring to the negative numbers on the back.

As ever

A handwritten signature, likely of the sender, in dark ink, written in a cursive style.